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HOUSE RESOLUTION 30  
By Phillips

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge William Stanton Russell of Shelbyville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Judge William Stanton Russell; and

WHEREAS, Judge Russell was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Judge William Russell was born in Hamblen County and lived much of his childhood in Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished athlete and scholar, he was the salutatorian of his 1943 graduating class in Jefferson City; and

WHEREAS, only weighing 120 pounds in high school, Judge William S. Russell still served as a guard on his school's football team; he finished a scrimmage despite a broken arm and finished a regular season game despite a broken ankle; and

WHEREAS, Judge Russell honorably and bravely served in the United States Navy during World War II in the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Judge William Russell received his law degree from the University of Tennessee in 1948, and went into private practice with James L. Bomar, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, interested in helping his community, he ran for public office and was elected as Mayor of Shelbyville for two terms, serving from 1957 to 1961; and

WHEREAS, Judge William Stanton Russell diligently and astutely served as assistant district attorney general from 1960-62, and he was appointed, in 1963, to be the first Circuit Judge of the new 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District, consisting of Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore Counties; and

WHEREAS, Judge Russell served on the Court of Criminal Appeals, from 1969 to 1979, and finished his distinguished tenure as the Court's Presiding Judge; and

WHEREAS, at the request of Chief Justice Riley Anderson of the Tennessee Supreme Court, he served as a designated judge after his retirement; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary public servant, he served on all Tennessee appellate courts and the Tennessee Supreme Court's Workers' Compensation Panel; and

WHEREAS, from 1979 to 1990, Judge William Russell was the senior law partner with Russell and Russell, and was a solo practitioner from 1990 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, Judge William S. Russell was an active and valuable member of numerous organizations, including the Tennessee Law Revision Commission, the Tennessee Judicial Council, and Bedford County Attorney; and

WHEREAS, he was the Chairman of the Criminal Law Rules Commission, President of the National Alumni Association for the University of Tennessee, and a member of the Board of Directors of First American Bank, Shelbyville; and

WHEREAS, Judge Russell has been described as "A Judge's Judge and Lawyer's Lawyer"; and was respected by his peers and supervisors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Riley Anderson has said, “Judge Russell was one of this state’s most valuable and treasured resources who, throughout his life, gave freely of his time and many talents to help others”; and

WHEREAS, Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge Gary Wade, has said of Judge William Russell, “He devoted his life to the law as a profession and, moreover, to the people of his community and his state, whom he has served honorably and well”; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, when Federal Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey was the first woman appointed to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, not all of her new colleagues were excited about having a woman on the court, but Judge William S. Russell went out of his way to befriend and assist her; and

WHEREAS, he was a good man; his heart was forever open to those who needed him, regardless of their station in life; and

WHEREAS, Judge William Russell was an active and devout member of the First Presbyterian Church in Shelbyville, which he served faithfully as a Sunday school teacher and elder for over forty years; and

WHEREAS, Judge Russell also served the church as a deacon, a trustee, and trustee emeritus; and with his wife, Nelle Russell, he directed the church youth program from 1950 to 1960; and

WHEREAS, while his three great passions in life were family, church, and law, Judge William S. Russell also enjoyed playing and coaching tennis; he was one of the founders of the Shelbyville Tennis Association; and

WHEREAS, an excellent tennis player, he held clinics in the 1970s and assisted in coaching the local high school tennis team; and

WHEREAS, Judge William Russell was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Judge Russell enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife Nelle Lacy Waite Russell, and was the proud parent of sons, Lee and Mark Russell, and daughter, Ann Lacy Johns Filer; and

WHEREAS, he was blessed with the love of his five grandchildren, Andy, Lacy, Charlie, Katie, and Emily; and

WHEREAS, although, the Russells had been married for 50 years, Judge William S. Russell still persisted in playfully introducing Nelle Russell as his “first wife”; and

WHEREAS, their three children followed in his footsteps, all choosing careers in the legal profession: Lee Russell is a circuit judge, Ann Lacy Johns Filer is a former Criminal Court Judge who now works for the district attorney’s office for the 17<sup>th</sup> district, and Mark Russell is an attorney; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Claiborne Lee and Sue Haskew Russell; and

WHEREAS, Judge William S. Russell leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of Judge William Stanton Russell, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his stalwart commitment to his family and community, and the courage and honor with which he served the state of Tennessee and its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Judge William S. Russell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

